

FLOUR and FLOWERS OF SULPHUR

Whale-Oil Soap and other Insecticides *For Sale by*
E. O. PAINTER FERTILIZER CO., Jacksonville, Fla.

The most wonderful thing about it is a perennial like rhubarb and asparagus, and produces three to four crops a year, every other known specie of celery has to be planted each year and yields but one cutting. Bolton's plant gives its first crop early in the spring.

A singular thing is that the Bolton plant is a hybrid and came into existence through an act of carelessness. A farmer named Smith near Ruthven had a few trenches of ordinary celery growing, but only a part of it was gathered before winter set in. The rest was abandoned. Next spring Farmer Smith was surprised to see a round stalk of celery growing from the neglected plants. He had never before heard of celery roots living through the winter in frozen ground. Neither had anyone else. This new hybrid growth proved to be a perennial. He grew them for a few years and then Station Agent Bolton gave him \$200 of his savings for all the plants as a speculation. He has christened the plant the "Silver King."

The A B C of Fencing.

The American Agriculturist prints an interesting article about fencing. You may find some new ideas about the building of fences.

In fencing three or four main points insure success. We Americans have been bred to a wrong idea. Our first settlers fenced their stock out, that is, placed fences around planted "patches" and turned the stock loose. The beast literally owned the earth and the tilled land was rightly termed an "inclosure." From this false principle we are not yet weaned. We are still fencing stock out instead of fencing it in. Today there should be no fences excepting about pasture and paddock.

The A of fencing being "to fence in," the B or second essential point is to fence permanently. Here our old-fashioned ideas are again in the way. The cheapest material will always be used, and this was wood, but it is wood no more. The limit is that we may use wood posts, but these should be the best and if not of cedar, should be charred or treated to prevent decay. Metal being the material for the body of the fence, galvanized wire is of course the best. Today a good steel wire heavily coated with pure spelter (a kind of refuse zinc) is a little difficult to obtain. Cheap scrap wire has always been turned to fencing and the galvanized wire has lately become a gross fraud and should receive government investigation. The best I can advise is to buy direct, or of the most reputable dealer, forcing your agent to warrant a certain number of years' wear before rust appears. There is good fence wire being made if you wish to get it.

Likes Woven Style.—Wherever the pasture is at all valuable I advise some style of woven wire. The only objection to this, beyond its expense, is that if not well galvanized it will soon rust where wires cross or twist in the meshes. This is oftener true of "homemade" fences; that is, those where a machine is used for weaving the up and down wires upon the horizontal strands. This machine more or less grazes or wounds the wire and

at these points rust soon begins.

A woven fence is bull, hog and dog proof and you are saving in time, worry and damage far more than any extra first cost. Again the old-fashioned idea. Poor fences were the rule in my father's day. They were made poorly and then kept poor by being brushmended. The waste of time, the worry and the loss in damaged crops, in strayed animals (and dead ones too, from fighting) were a ridiculous tax. Excusable then, perhaps, but not now. A permanent fence provokes better survey. The line is established perfectly. Gullies, etc., are graded and flood and frost provided for.

The C or third essential point of good fencing is appearance. I wouldn't run a string of wire through a swamp without sawing the posts even and standing them perfectly straight. If it is a front fence use sawed posts and paint the top 10 inches white to make them look well. Such a front fence will add much over cost to the value of any place.

Just a general word about "fronts." When I hear a farmer complaining about the way his highway front is "worked" by the roadmaster, I know he has not done his own part. Nothing he can do will so add to the value and use of his property as to keep up a good "front," not merely cutting the brush once in a while, but in grading, grass seeding and frequently mowing all that part of the highway that adjoins his cultivated lands. If he has woodland next to the road he should see to it that it is kept trimmed in a thorough manner.

Points to Remember.—The solid or slat board fence is today only desirable where a screen is required. Expense and lack of durability forbid it except for this purpose. The stone fence has its uses and always will if laid in cement (or without, if on a 3-foot foundation below ground), but it is the most expensive of them all, and should never be built "just to get rid of the stone." Neither of these make a good boundary fence. Woven wire is best with the exception of wherever a screen is desired.

Hedges are also out of date. The San Jose scale has helped to settle this question. It is very fond of buckthorn, osage and similar shrubs. Other insects, too, are harbored by the hedge, not to mention vermin, snow drifts, etc. The hedge is all right in landscape gardening but it has no place in the farmer's program.

Hurdles or movable fences are exceedingly useful wherever sheep and calves are kept. For heavier stock they will not do. But for orchard with aftermath, rape, turnips and other pasturing, the hurdle has the most practical use. The upright pattern, each section fitted to set down into heavy cross sticks of cord wood, is the cheapest and easiest to operate. There is no waste lumber needed in bracing and the sections are lighter to handle and more likely to be stored from rain, moved frequently, etc. They merely require a 2-inch augur hole in a heavy billet of cord wood, which is laid on the ground across the line of fence. The section material may be part wood, part wire. In setting taut wire fence, corner posts,

brace posts and those in crossing gulleys, they must be "anchored." Dig a 3-foot hole the shape of a cross and nail cross braces to the bottom end of the post to fit into the x-shaped hole. When these are tamped down the posts are effectually anchored.

The common method of bracing is poor, that is, a brace from the top of the end post to the base of the second post of the fence, the top of the latter being tied back to the first by a wire. A better way is to brace from the top of the end post to the top of the second post, tying the top of the latter by wire to the base of the first. The same arrangement should be made every 20 to 25 rods in a long string of straight fence, or at less distance on uneven ground, curves, etc.

Don't build fences in early spring, time is too valuable and the ground is too loose. October and November are the ideal months for surveying, setting posts, grading, etc. Then when the ground has frozen the posts solid, anytime during the winter, stretch on the wire. The metal is then cold and will not thereafter break if strung very tight, as sometimes happens from summer-built fences.

Figs.

Do you have as many figs as your own family can use? If not, why not? Well ripened figs are a delicious fruit, and very wholesome. Who does not enjoy a dish of peaches and cream? A dish of ripe figs cut up with sugar and cream is even better. A correspondent of the Southern Ruralist, writing from Texas, says:

I will write you about my experience with figs. We raise peaches and plums, but figs are our hobby.

To begin with, we have 1-4 of an acre in figs. The land had been in cultivation for years, has a red clay sub-soil, and was not very rich. Our trees were cuttings from trees in our neighborhood, which we rooted, and then in the fall set them 12 feet apart each way. The land was planted in cotton the first and second years, but have planted nothing since, as the trees are large now.

All cultivation should be shallow, as the roots run near the surface of the ground. For fertilizer we have used only stable manure and wood ashes. I don't know how others cultivate them, as I have never seen an article on fig culture.

We have three varieties, one a pale yellow, that I do not know the name of; the Celestial, a light purple color, medium-size; and largest of all, the Brown Turkey fig, which is a deep purple. It begins ripening the middle of September, and continues until freezing weather. I have picked ripe figs on Christmas day.

We live 18 miles from a railroad and so have no means of shipping them; also nine miles from nearest town, but with these great drawbacks, we have sold \$40.00 worth off our 1-4 acre this year, gave away lots of them and had bushels to rot that we were too busy to market.

Have trees of the Brown Turkey now, without a leaf on them, full of figs, from the smallest green ones to the large ripe ones.

I believe poultry droppings to be a fine fertilizer for figs, as the largest tree we have, which bears the finest fruit, is one my chickens roost in.

The trees begin bearing early, are very prolific and in this part of Texas, they live from 15 to 25 years.

(The writer of the article describes the Celestial fig as light purple and the Brown Turkey as being dark purple. She cannot have the true varieties. The Celestial is a very light brown, not at all like purple. The Brown Turkey is almost the same color, only a shade darker, not at all purple. Both are at the head for quality but are small, the Celestial being too small for market.—Ed. Fla. Agr.)

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